

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 and 7 through 20 are either canceled herein or were previously canceled. Independent claim 4 has been amended herein. All of the pending claims 4 through 6 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (currently amended) An improvement in a process for preparing crystals of (7", 17") -17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one, the improvement comprising, after filtering and washing the crystals, but before drying the crystals, aging crystals of (7", 17")-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one in the presence of water for a period of time of at least 24 hours.

5. (previously presented) The improvement of claim 4 wherein the period of time lasts 3-6 days.

6. (previously presented) The improvement of claim 4, wherein the crystals are formed in the last step of a synthesis comprising the steps of:

- a. reacting (7", 17") -3, 3-dimethoxy-17-hydroxy-7- methyl-19-norpregn-5 (10) en-20-yn-3-one in an organic solvent with a weak acidic aqueous solution,
- b. pouring out the solution in water which is slightly alkaline, and
- c. washing the crystals with water which is slightly alkaline.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).